

REMARKS

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1-3 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by U.S. Patent 4,552,527 to Hunter. The Examiner considered Hunter to be disclosing the invention as recited in claims 1-3.

Furthermore, the Examiner objected to claims 4-7 as being otherwise allowable, except for their dependency from a rejected claim.

By the present amendment and remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been rendered moot, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action.

Response

Claims 1-5 remain pending in this application. Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended.

The Examiner stated that claims 1 to 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hunter (4,552,527). However, the Examiner further stated that claims 4 to 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to this, claim 1 has been amended to substantially incorporate therein claim 7, and claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled. With the amendment to claim 1, Applicant believes that the rejection of claim 1 has been rendered moot because Hunter does not disclose the added features in the amended claim 1 of this application. Therefore, amended claim 1 is allowable, and claims 2 to 5 dependent on the allowable amended claim 1 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

The rejection of claims 1-3 has been rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any fees necessary for consideration of the papers filed herein and refund excess payments to Deposit Account No. 50-2929.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the undersigned may be contacted at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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